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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process with a user device and
a system of billing a user through a network for up to an amount, the amount based on a
predetermined total length of time, through a network;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the system corresponding to identification information
received from the user device from a storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining charge information requested by the user from the
system retrieved by the retrieving process unit;

a transmitting process unit transmitting the charge information to the user device; and

a payment process unit performing a payment ~~by communicating with the system of billing a~~
~~user by a predetermined time, and obtaining charge information from the system through the~~
~~network wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the~~
~~charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter~~ the retrieved system according to a request
for payment from the user device.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process with a user device and a system of billing a user through a network for up to an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, through a network;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device or according to a request;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the retrieving process unit;

a receiving process unit receiving notification request information relating to a timing of notifying the current use information; and

an information providing unit obtaining current use information from the system of billing a user by a predetermined time according to recorded information transmitted in advance from the user device or at a request from the user device, and transmitting the obtained use information to the user device wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification request information received from the user device.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The server according to claim 2, wherein when the payment is made in a pre-payment system for a predetermined time, a message is transmitted to the user device at any time before the predetermined time elapses.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A system use support method, comprising:

transmitting an identification number of a system of billing a user [[by]] for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, and user information from a user device;
[[and]]

obtaining an address of a system of billing a user by a predetermined time corresponding to the identification number, obtaining use information from the system at the address, and adjusting a charge or providing information;

retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device or according to a request;

obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the retrieving process unit;

receiving notification request information relating to a timing of notifying the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification request information received from the user device.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 6, wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device and a system of billing a user through a network for up to an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time;
~~through a network;~~ [[and]]

performing a payment by communicating with the system of billing a user by a predetermined time, and obtaining charge information from the system through the network;

retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device or according to a request;

obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the retrieving process unit;

receiving notification request information relating to a timing of notifying the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification request information received from the user device.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device and a system of billing a user through a network for up to an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time;
~~through a network;~~ [[and]]

obtaining current use information from the system according to recorded information transmitted in advance from the user device or at a request from the user device, and transmitting the obtained use information to the user device;

retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device or according to a request;

obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the retrieving process unit;
receiving notification request information relating to a timing of notifying the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification request information received from the user device.

Claim 10 (Original): The storage medium according to claim 8, wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter.

Claim 11 (Original): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave storing a computer program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device or a system of billing a user through a network for up to an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time through a network; and

performing a payment by communicating with the system of billing a user by a predetermined time, and obtaining charge information from the system through the network;

retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device or according to a request;

obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the retrieving process unit;
receiving notification request information relating to a timing of notifying the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification request information received from the user device.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave storing a computer program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising: performing a communicating process with a user device and a system of billing a user through a network for up to an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time; and obtaining current use information from the system according to recorded information transmitted in advance from the user device or at a request from the user device, and transmitting the obtained use information to the user device;

retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device or according to a request;

obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the retrieving process unit;
receiving notification request information relating to a timing of notifying the current use
information; and
transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification
request information received from the user device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process with a user device
through a network;

an information providing unit obtaining use information about a user who uses a system of
billing a user for ~~up to an amount~~, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time,
determining a transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and
transmitting the message to the user device through the network with the transmission timing;
[[and]]

a payment unit for making a payment at a payment request from the user device;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information
received from the user device or according to a request;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the
retrieving process unit;

a receiving process unit receiving notification request information relating to a timing of
notifying the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification request information received from the user device.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device through a network;

obtaining use information about a user who uses a system of billing a user for ~~up to an~~
amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, determining a transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and transmitting the message to the user device through the network with the transmission timing; and

making a payment at a payment request from the user device;

retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device or according to a request;

obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the retrieving process unit;

receiving notification request information relating to a timing of notifying the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification request information received from the user device.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave storing a computer program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device through a network;

obtaining use information about a user who uses a system of billing a user for ~~up to an~~
amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, determining a transmission
timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and transmitting the message to the
user device through the network with the transmission timing; [[and]]

making a payment at a payment request from the user device;

retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user
device or according to a request;

obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the retrieving process unit;
receiving notification request information relating to a timing of notifying the current use
information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification
request information received from the user device.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

communications process means for performing a communicating process with a user device
and a system of billing a user [[by]] an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of
time, through a network; [[and]]

payment process means for performing a payment by communicating with the system of
billing a user for up to a predetermined total time, and obtaining charge information from the
system through the network;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the system, corresponding to identification information
received from the user device or according to a request;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information from the system retrieved by the
retrieving process unit;

a receiving process unit receiving notification request information relating to a timing of
notifying the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device
according to the notification request information received from the user device.